OUCH PRIORITY — RESTRICTED (Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

745h.00/2-953

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

AMCONGEN, Lagos, Nigeria. 189

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. February 9, 1953

REF :

MESSAGE CENTER 1953 FEB 49 PM 3 12

.26 For Dept. Use Only bs	ACTION NEA	DEPT. EUR CLI IBS IFI UNA
	REC'D FEB 18	INFO OTHER

SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - January 26 - February 7, 1953

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR DATE 7/15/82
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE
RDS or XI SEXT. DATE
TS AUTH REASONS FOR MARKINGS
ENDORSEMENT LISTING RELEASABLE
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

POLITICAL

NCNC Provokes Disruption of Eastern House of Assembly.

In effort gain greater personal control Eastern Region government, Nnamdi AZIKIWE, NCNC chief, brought stalemate to Eastern House during past ten days. Zik and small group loyal party members talked East's nine cabinet ministers (nominal party members) into resigning, although six immediately withdrew resignations. Zik published list proposed NCNC ministers to replace resignees. List included three ministers who let resignations stand, as well as K. O. MBADIWE and Okafor ORIZU, whose past records not clean. Orizu arrested by Nigerian Government two days after above incident--charged with obtaining money by fraud in connection his well-known scheme to send Nigerian students to U.S. "No-confidence" motion in ministers passed by Eastern House in open division, 60-13. Ministers refuse accept vote and now holding out for legally correct secret ballot in about eight days. Meanwhile NCNC allowing no legislation pass in House.

Basis of Zik action felt to be not solely political. (Classified despatch to Department upcoming) Ministers had evidenced little desire accept will of Azikiwe and refused follow his policy of scrapping present Nigerian constitution.

Lagos Town Council Suspended by Western Region Government

New Lagos local "caretaker" government installed as of February 6. Western Region Government suspended LTC and put in Management Committee headed by Sir Kofo ABAYOMI, prominent Lagos leader. Bernard STOREY report on LTC inquiry published previous days, concluded that old Council not discharging its functions properly. Expected that caretaker committee will serve until complete Lagos government reform planned for later this year.

Action another blow at Azikiwe as LTC his last stronghold in Western Region

RWRoss/LDJunior:hz
REPORTER

RESTRICTED

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must retain this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

745H.00/2-953

FILED MAR 1953

RP

DECLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

Western Region. Most of Management Committee members of Action Group but enjoy fair reputations.

Western House of Assembly Winds Up

Regional Local Government Law passed 1952 by both Western legislatures passed this session with amendments and deletions asked for by Governor MACPHERSON. Most changes asked because sections dealt with matters ultra vires for region government. No significant alteration in structure and system local government called for by amendments.

Tony ENAHORO, "Peck's Bad Boy" of Action Group, put up two resolutions passed over objections official members (British). House passed resolution "condemning repressive measures" being used in Kenya to "crush African nationalism." Also resolution: "That this House urges the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to advise expatriate (British) civil servants in this Region that it is undesirable that they spend their leave in South Africa." During debate on this resolution Enahoro and others suggested Region refuse give leave pay to anyone vacationing in the Union.

On January the Action Group majority passed, over strenuous NCNC vocal objections, capitation tax increase from 6d to 10/6d per person in Western Region and from 3d to 10/3d in Colony. AG Leader AWOLOWO in eloquent plea demanded increase to meet Western Regional peoples' "hunger" for "education, health, for freedom from the bondage of superstition and disease..." Tax to be paid by Native Authorities who are in turn to collect from rate-payers on collection schedules they themselves will devise.

Member Northern House of Assembly Praises Administrative Officers

Malam Benjamin AKIGA, House member from Benue, stated that Benue Province would like to have all District Officers and other administrative officers "Southern" Nigeria felt to be redundant. Northerners want more D.O.'s and statements like this one irritate Eastern and Western nationalists greatly. Other members of Northern House stated that law and order came to Nigeria only when British arrived, still honored as honest arbiters in native disputes.

GENERAL

Provisional Census Figures for Western Region

First releases of 1952 census shows Region has 6,362,000 as compared 1931 census and estimate figure of 3,903,000. Ibadan, Nigeria's largest city, now has a population of 456,000. Lagos' population listed as 272,000—146,000 males, 126,000 females.

DECLASSIFIED

E. P. KEBLER
American Consul General

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

Western Region. Most of Management Committee members of Action Group but enjoy fair reputations.

Western House of Assembly Winds Up

Regional Local Government Law passed 1952 by both Western legislatures passed this session with amendments and deletions asked for by Governor MACPHERSON. Most changes asked because sections dealt with matters ultra vires for region government. No significant alteration in structure and system local government called for by amendments.

Tony ENAHORO, "Peck's Bad Boy" of Action Group, put up two resolutions passed over objections official members (British). House passed resolution "condemning repressive measures" being used in Kenya to "crush African nationalism." Also resolution: "That this House urges the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to advise expatriate (British) civil servants in this Region that it is undesirable that they spend their leave in South Africa." During debate on this resolution Enahoro and others suggested Region refuse give leave pay to anyone vacationing in the Union.

On January the Action Group majority passed, over strenuous NCNC vocal objections, capitation tax increase from 6d to 10/6d per person in Western Region and from 3d to 10/3d in Colony. AG Leader AWOLOWO in eloquent plea demanded increase to meet Western Regional peoples' "hunger" for "education, health, for freedom from the bondage of superstition and disease..." Tax to be paid by Native Authorities who are in turn to collect from rate-payers on collection schedules they themselves will devise.

Member Northern House of Assembly Praises Administrative Officers

Malam Benjamin AKIGA, House member from Benue, stated that Benue Province would like to have all District Officers and other administrative officers "Southern" Nigeria felt to be redundant. Northerners want more D.O.'s and statements like this one irritate Eastern and Western nationalists greatly. Other members of Northern House stated that law and order came to Nigeria only when British arrived, still honored as honest arbiters in native disputes.

GENERAL

Provisional Census Figures for Western Region

First releases of 1952 census shows Region has 6,362,000 as compared 1931 census and estimate figure of 3,803,000. Ibadan, Nigeria's largest city, now has a population of 456,000. Lagos' population listed as 272,000--146,000 males, 126,000 females.

UNCLASSIFIED

E. P. KEELER
American Consul General

RESTRICTED